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Approved For Release 1999/09/09 : CIA-RDP82-00457R002300650009-1

~~INFORM CONFIDENTIAL~~

CD NO.

COUNTRY Ecuador

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DATE DISTR. 15 Feb 1949

SUBJECT Views of Ecuadoran Minister of Finance on the Plaza Government

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED

25X1A6a

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X DATE OF IN

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The Ecuadoran Minister of Finance, Dr. Carlos Martinez, recently expressed a low opinion of the Plaza government and predicted its collapse before long. He stated that he was sorry he had agreed to serve as a member of the Cabinet. Whereas he once thought that the President was a capable, intelligent person, he had reached the conclusion that Plaza was utterly unqualified for his present position. The President has adopted no plan of action but is guided from day to day by the exigencies of the prevailing circumstances. Members of his Cabinet are unable to plan their work in advance with any degree of certainty because they are constantly being faced with orders and counterorders.
2. Martinez added that Plaza knows there is a strong movement against him but does not know its leaders, its strength, or the date when it will act against him. The problem of judging who would remain loyal to his administration is extremely difficult. Martinez expressed the opinion that the Plaza administration will be lucky if it lasts through the next two months.

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Next Review Date: 2009

Document No.
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